

### **REMARKS**

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of rejected claims 1, 2, 8 to 12 and 18 to 20, claims 3 to 7 and 13 to 17 are now pending and being considered in the present application.

In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 3 to 7 and 13 to 17 include allowable subject matter. In this regard, the Examiner will note that each of claims 3 (from which claims 4 to 7 depend) and 13 (from which claims 14 to 17 depend) has been rewritten in independent form and to include the subject matter of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 3 to 7 and 13 to 17 are in condition for immediate allowance.

The remaining rejected claims have been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby obviating the remaining claim rejections.

Accordingly, all of pending claims 3 to 7 and 13 to 17 are allowable.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously and/or originally presented in a continuation and/or divisional patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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